



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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Over 500 Educational Leaders From Across Arizona Celebrate Successful Leading Change Conference

18 Districts and Charter Schools Honored for their Student Academic Achievement

Tucson, AZ, June 29, 2011– Today, the Arizona Department of Education closed its largest ever Leading Change Conference with an awards luncheon honoring 18 small, medium and large school districts and charter schools for their student academic achievement with the Department’s 2011 Excellence Award.

“I am constantly on the lookout for programs providing breakthrough results in the classrooms and at schools which lead to increased student achievement,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal. “The Arizona Department of Education’s 2011 Excellence Awards will help shine a spotlight on those districts and charter schools with high student academic growth and achievement so that superintendents, charter holders, administrators, principals, and teachers from around the state can learn from their successes.”

The 2011 Excellence Award Winners include:

Reading Excellence Award:

Arizona School for the Arts (Charter)
Chandler Unified District (District)
Hermosa Montessori Charter School (Charter)
Keystone Montessori Charter School (Charter)
Tempe Preparatory Academy (Charter)

Math Excellence Award:

Foothills Academy (Charter)
Kyrene elementary District (District)
Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley, dba Mesa Arts Academy (Charter)
Tempe Union High School District (District)
Veritas Academy (Charter)

Academic Excellence Award:

Congress Elementary School District (Small District)
Catalina Foothills Unified School District (Medium District)
Vail Unified School District (Large District)
Self Development Charter School (Small Charter)

Chandler Preparatory Academy (Medium Charter)
Bright Beginnings School (Medium Charter)
Basis: Scottsdale (Large Charter)
Basis: Tucson (Larger Charter)

The Arizona Department of Education's 2011 Leading Change Conference brought together over 500 educational leaders from across Arizona to participate in professional development opportunities and to learn about key educational issues such as: A-F accountability measures, new standards, the response to intervention framework (RTI), and principal and teacher evaluation systems, to name a few. The conference provided over 60 workshops covering a wide range of professional development and innovative educational programs designed to improve student achievement.

"The dynamic learning environment at this three day conference was wonderful to see and experience," said Huppenthal. "I would like to congratulate our Excellence Award winners and look forward to working with them and our educational leaders from across Arizona to implement what they have learned to improve education for all of our students."

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